

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNCLASSIFIED

3/11/81
2) SOC 11-26
Rit to 134
7

TO : POL Files
American Embassy - Buenos Aires

FROM : POL - Townsend B. Friedman

SUBJECT: Follow-Up on CELS Arrests

DATE: 3/10/81

DG-069
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Jose Westerkamp and his wife called at the Embassy today. Among other things, they reported that:

1) Harguindeguy told Conte Mac Donell's brother that it was he, Harguindeguy, who ordered the raids and arrests against CELS. The Interior Minister then went on to comment that though he had ordered the raids the operation turned out to be a failure because of a botched job by the "technocrats" (meaning the intelligence services). Harguindeguy went on to state that both the President and the Foreign Minister had read him the riot act for ordering the operations.

2) Judge Anzoategui made it clear to the CELS detainees that he did not order the raids or the arrests. By his remarks he implied that Harguindeguy has a number of blank judicial orders for police actions signed by the "Juez del Turno" of the Buenos Aires Federal Court -- at the moment, Anzoategui is the Juez del Turno. (Since the first call to Anzoategui by a member of the Presidency's staff in my presence the morning after the arrests, Anzoategui has been implying the same thing -- that he was not responsible for the operation.)

3) The terms under which the judge ordered the detainees release are virtually an acquittal. They expect no further action.

4) From the beginning much of the police attention focused on where CELS got its money. Mignone and others explained that it came from foreign foundations as recorded in the documents taken by the police. Mignone went on to tell his captors that it was

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason



5010-110

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2.

thanks in part to the economic policies of Martinez de Hoz that CELS had such easy and ready access to foreign funds.

5) They were deeply appreciative of what we had done.

cc: AMB
DCM
POL-2
ARA/SC/Argentina

Drafted: POL: TBFriedman: gbm
3/10/81

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